

86th Session of the Texas Legislature



FINAL DAYS OF SESSION UPDATE

Marsha Farney, PhD, TACS Governmental Relations
Wednesday, May 15, 2019

HB 281/SB 29

HB 281 died a well-deserved death in the House Calendars Committee last week. Its companion, SB 29, was fast-tracked through the House State Affairs and is now in the House Calendars Committee. This is the bill that prohibits ISDs from hiring advocates to represent them in the Capitol on legislation. This bill would mute the voice of school districts in the Legislature. We are fighting to keep your voice heard!

HB 4242 STAAR AUDIT

This bill requires an independent audit of the STAAR to ensure it tests at the appropriate grade level has been voted out of the House Public Education Committee and on the House floor. It has been referred to the Senate Education Committee. The bill must be heard and passed out of committee this week in order to have a chance to become law.

SB 13 TRS BILL CONFEREES NAMED

House:

Dr. Greg Bonnen, Barbara Gervin-Hawkins, Jim Murphy, Armando Walle, Dr. John Zerwas

Senate:

Joan Huffman, Jane Nelson, Lois Kolkhorst, Larry Taylor, Royce West

The debate on this bill is going to be over how much the school districts contribute, how much current employees contribute, and how much the state contributes. It's all about the money!

HB 3 SCHOOL FINANCE BILL CONFEREES AT WORK

The House and Senate conferees are debating several key issues including:

- \$5,000 mandated teacher/librarian pay raise
- House version for flexibility in pay raises
- Merit pay
- Outcomes-based pay (3rd grade & CCMR)
- Inclusion of STAAR for teacher evaluation
- School start/stop date flexibility for DOIs
- Current or prior year property tax valuation

SB 213 INDIVIDUAL GRADUATION COMMITTEE

SB 213 was passed by the Senate and the House and has been signed by the Governor! Great news for students who have successfully completed course work to graduate but do not test well on the STAAR.

House Bills Voted Out of Senate Education Committee
May 14th

- [HB 165](#) **Bernal**
Relating to providing for endorsements for public high school students enrolled in special education programs.
- [HB 330](#) **VanDeaver**
Relating to excluding certain students from the computation of dropout and completion rates for purposes of public school accountability.
- [HB 391](#) **Blanco**
Relating to student access to public school instructional materials and technology.
- [HB 396](#) **VanDeaver**
Relating to acceptable uses of the instructional materials and technology fund and the instructional materials and technology allotment.
- [HB 455](#) **Allen**
Relating to policies on the recess period in public schools.
- [HB 678](#) **Clardy**
Relating to the care of students with seizure disorders and the training requirements for school personnel regarding seizure recognition and related first aid.
- [HB 963](#) **Bell**
Relating to a review by the State Board of Education of the essential knowledge and skills of the career and technology and technology applications curriculums.
- [HB 1026](#) **Bohac**
Relating to instruction in positive character traits in public schools.
- [HB 1244](#) **Ashby**
Relating to including a civics test in the graduation requirements for public high school students and to eliminating the United States history end-of-course assessment instrument.
- [HB 1480](#) **VanDeaver**
Relating to assessment of public school students, providing accelerated instruction, appropriately crediting certain student performance, and eliminating requirements based on performance on certain assessment instruments.
- [HB 2190](#) **Hunter**
Relating to admission of certain students to an open-enrollment charter school in certain counties.
- [HB 2424](#) **Ashby**
Relating to the creation of a micro-credential certification program for public school educator continuing education.
- [HB 2984](#) **Allison**
Relating to the essential knowledge and skills of the technology applications curriculum.
- [HB 3007](#) **Turner**
Relating to requiring TEA to provide to a school district certain information used in determining academic accountability ratings for the district.

Senate Education Committee Hearing on House Bills
May 16th 8:00 am E.1.028

- [HB 496](#) **Gervin-Hawkins | et al. SP: Lucio**
Relating to the placement of bleeding control stations in public schools and to required training of public school personnel and students.
- [HB 663](#) **King, Ken SP: Taylor**
Relating to a continuing review and revision of the essential knowledge and skills of the public school foundation curriculum and proclamations for the production of instructional materials.
- [HB 769](#) **Davis, Sarah | et al. SP: Campbell**
Relating to the termination of the contract of a superintendent of a school district based on malfeasance.
- [HB 974](#) **Metcalf | et al. SP: Taylor**
Relating to public school safety measures and procedures.
- [HB 1388](#) **VanDeaver | et al. SP: Powell**
Relating to indicators of achievement under the public school accountability system.
- [HB 1906](#) **Burns | et al. SP: Kolkhorst**
Relating to procedures for the alternative assessment of certain public school students that receive special education services and alternative accountability plans for certain campuses serving students that receive special education services.
- [HB 2184](#) **Allen | et al. SP: Huffman**
Relating to a public school student's transition from an alternative education program to a regular classroom.
- [HB 2511](#) **Allen | et al. SP: Zaffirini**
Relating to the content of a public school campus improvement plan.
- [HB 3435](#) **Bowers SP: Johnson**
Relating to establishing and celebrating Texas Girls in STEM Day.
- [HB 3511](#) **VanDeaver | et al. SP: Alvarado**
Relating to the creation of the Commission on Texas Workforce of the Future.
- [HB 3630](#) **Meyer | et al. SP: Lucio**
Relating to prohibiting the use of aversive techniques on students enrolled in public school who receive special education services.
- [HB 3884](#) **Wilson SP: Zaffirini**
Relating to dissemination of bacterial meningitis information by school districts.
- [HB 4258](#) **Murphy | et al. SP: Campbell**
Relating to approval by the attorney general of certain bonds financing an educational facility for certain charter schools.
- [HB 4388](#) **Murphy | et al. SP: Campbell**
Relating to the management of the permanent school fund by the School Land Board and the State Board of Education.

SB 11 School Safety Bill

The House Public Education Committee voted SB 11 out on Tuesday moving the School Safety Bill forward to the House Calendars Committee awaiting a date for a floor vote on this important bill.

Why CSHB 297 Matters

CSHB 297 would end school district maintenance and operations taxes in January 2022 and require the formation of a joint interim legislative committee to study funding schools with consumption taxes.

The bill would prohibit a school district from imposing a tax for maintenance and operations beginning January 1, 2022.

Districts would still be allowed to impose an enrichment tax at a rate not to exceed 17 cents per \$100 of taxable property value to provide additional revenue to enrich student educational opportunities.

The Joint Interim Committee on the Elimination of School District Maintenance and Operations Ad Valorem Taxes would consider, evaluate, and provide a report on:

- 1) the effectiveness of increasing the rate or expanding the application of **state consumption taxes and using the revenue to meet the state's constitutional duty to fund schools;**
- 2) the effectiveness of **imposing consumption taxes not currently imposed by the state** and using the revenue to meet the state's constitutional duty to fund schools;
- 3) the ability of state-imposed consumption taxes to **adequately respond to annual changes in school districts' unique funding needs;** and
- 4) the **effects of an increase in consumption taxes on Texas residents and businesses.**

Status of CSHB 297 – It was passed from the House & has been referred to the Senate Finance Committee.

This information came from the bill analysis found here:

<https://capitol.texas.gov/BillLookup/Text.aspx?LegSess=86R&Bill=HB297#>

Senate Bills Voted Out of House Pub Ed Formal Meeting: May 14th

SB 139

Rodriguez

Relating to a notice of educational rights for certain student evaluations.

SB 293

Lucio

Relating to improving training and staff development for primary and secondary educators to enable them to more effectively serve all students.

SB 686

Alvarado

Relating to courses in personal financial literacy and economics for high school students in public schools.

SB 1453

Taylor

Relating to the use of calculator applications in place of graphing calculators in public schools.

SB 1776

Campbell

Relating to the inclusion of an elective course on the founding principles of the United States in the curriculum for public high school students and the posting of the founding documents of the United States in public school buildings.

SB 1828

Menendez

Relating to Holocaust Remembrance Week in public schools.

SB 2042

Fallon

Relating to a study by the Texas Education Agency of career and technology education programs.

SB 2073

Taylor

Relating to a reduction in required days of service for educators in public schools under certain circumstances.

SB 2180

Nelson

Relating to the essential knowledge and skills of the technology applications curriculum and the establishment of a computer science strategic advisory committee to increase computer science instruction and participation in public schools.

SB 2282

West

Relating to providing mental health services and mental health education to public school students at school-based health centers.

SB 2285

Fallon

Relating to challenges by school districts and open-enrollment charter schools to accountability determinations.

The high stakes of being a third grader

by Michelle Smith, PhD (RYHT)

<https://www.tribtalk.org/2019/05/13/the-high-stakes-of-being-a-third-grader/>

**Last Day of Session: May 27th
Sine Die**